

Greetings from the Attorney General



Dear Acting Governor Codey, members of the State Legislature and citizens of New Jersey:

It has been my privilege to serve as Attorney General for more than two years. Our office has broad responsibilities that impact virtually every aspect of life in New Jersey, and we take those responsibilities quite seriously. This report outlines our efforts in 2003 and 2004.

Here is a fact that probably is not known to most: The New Jersey Attorney General's Office has the broadest jurisdiction of any Attorney General's Office in the nation. We have approximately 9,600 employees spread across 11 agencies, including State Police, Criminal Justice, Alcoholic Beverage Control, Gaming Enforcement, Law, Juvenile Justice Commission, Elections, Highway Traffic Safety, Civil Rights, Consumer Affairs and the Racing Commission. We also have principal authority over New Jersey's homeland security strategy through the Office of Counter-Terrorism and my chairmanship of the Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force. Our state-appropriated budget exceeds \$530 million, and, with federal grants, approximates \$1 billion.

Our agenda is one of action and innovation. We have brought substantial cases and system reforms that better protect the public and ensure equal justice. Some of our initiatives are the first of their kind in the nation. Examples include our statewide SART/SANE teams for survivors of sexual assault, movie theater accommodation for the deaf and hard of hearing, environmental enforcement actions that prosecute polluters of our cities and suburban neighborhoods, an insurance fraud prosecutor's office that leads the nation in fraud cases, and celebrity voter education public service announcements. Our work has established new benchmarks of achievement in the Department of Law and Public Safety. For example, our efforts have resulted in the largest securities fraud payment penalty in State history, the largest natural resource damage recovery in State history, a record number of criminal defendants charged and convicted, prosecution of 90 public officials, the establishment of a state-of-the-art forensic and DNA laboratory that is one of only four regional mitochondrial DNA labs designated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the implementation of a regional computer forensic laboratory in partnership with the FBI, and representation of the State in more than 17,000 civil actions and appeals.

We pride ourselves on being creative and non-partisan. The pages ahead will give you an overview of our enormous responsibility on behalf of the people of New Jersey. After reading it, I invite you to learn more about our work by visiting the Web sites of our divisions. See the upper left corner of each page for divisional Web addresses. Through the tireless efforts of our lawyers, investigators and administrative personnel, and through collaborative working relationships with other state departments, local governments, federal agencies and the private sector, we continue to strive to improve the quality of life in our state.

Peter C. Harvey,
Attorney General

